THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) There is a proposal to introduce a centrally sponsored scheme in the name of Janani Suraksha Yojana. The scheme shall not only integrate the existing National Maternity Benefit Scheme and other ongoing material health schemes, but will also introduce new initiatives. The scheme primarily aims at improving institutional deliveries and nutrition of lactating mothers belonging to families Below Poverty Line (BPL) so as to reduce maternal, neo-natal and infant mortality.

Pregnant women will be encouraged to register themselves with the health workers at the sub centres or at primary health centres for availing of at least three antenatal checkups, tetanus toxide injection, Iron & folic acid intake for 100 days and counseling on nutrition and other related issues. It is envisaged that this will help in early identification of any complications of pregnancy and timely referral. The disbursement of benefit will, however, be linked to the delivery of the child at a health centre. The Scheme is incentive based to attract expectant mothers for institutional delivery. There is no disincentive for those who do not register.

Hostels for SC/ST Students

†*109. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hostels constructed so far for ST boys and girls in various States under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes;

(b) the number of ST boys and girls benefited as a result thereof;

(c) whether Government have received complaints to the effect that hostels constructed for ST boys and girls are not being paid adequate attention about their upkeep; and

(d) if so, what are the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government to effect an improvement in the situation?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) Number of Hostels constructed for ST Boys and Girls from 1992-93 till date are as under:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Boys	Girls
441	414

(b) Number of seats/beneficiaries covered by the constructed hostels for ST boys and girls from 1992-93 till date are as under:—

Boys	Girls
17,194	21,798

(c) No such complaint has been received.

(d) Does not arise.

Healing properties of Fish Medicine

*110. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ascertained the facts about "fish medicine being administered for Asthma in some parts of the country;

(b) whether there is any scientific basis for the prescription; and

(c) if not, the reasons for allowing the run of "Asthma Mail"?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) There are several practices prevalent in the country for treatment of Asthma besides standard medical management. Due to local beliefs and cultural factors, the community practices various treatment measures including the Fish Treatment of Hyderabad. There has been no scientific investigation by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare into the medical efficacy of this treatment. Unless a properly designed randomized controlled trial is carried out, it is not possible to comment on the efficacy.

There is no train called "Asthma Mail" run by the Railways. In case of heavy demand of traffic for a particular direction, extra coaches are attached/special trains are run depending on traffic pattern, operational feasibility and availability of resources.